

Dimensions.

Total length	...	...	100 millim.
Length of head	...	...	16 "
Width of head	...	...	11.5 "
Body	...	...	47 "
Fore limb...	...	...	22.5 "
Hind limb	...	...	27 "
Tail	...	...	37 "

Habitat.—Interior of New South Wales.

The species here described belongs to the tuberculated section of the genus, but differs in several constant characters from each of the three described forms belonging to that section; from *ciliaris* it is manifestly different in the absence of spinous tubercles on the supraciliary region, while from *strophurus* it is equally well distinguished by the presence of tubercles on the tail; its nearest ally, therefore, is *spinigerus*, whose place it would appear to take in the interior of this Colony; from that species, however, it differs in the following, among other, characters:—The snout is very much longer; the dorsal tubercles form two regular longitudinal series; there are eleven to thirteen upper and ten to twelve lower labials only; and the tail is armed with transverse rows of strong tubercles; while in *spinigerus* the snout is only a little longer than the diameter of the orbit, the tubercles are irregularly scattered over the dorsal surface, there are thirteen to fifteen upper, and as many lower labials, and the caudal tubercles are arranged in a single longitudinal series on each side of the tail and are black.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF
"NESTS AND EGGS OF BIRDS FOUND BREEDING IN
AUSTRALIA AND TASMANIA."

[Part II., April 1892.]

By A. J. NORTH, F.L.S.

SINCE the issue of Part I. the following new nests and eggs have been obtained and are herein described:—*Edoliisoma tenuirostre*, *Turnix melanotus*, *Ptilotis frenata*, and *Polytelis alexandre*. Descriptions of nests and eggs also appear that are not given in the Catalogue, as well as additional information on the nidification of other species. I here express my indebtedness to the col-

lectors or correspondents from whom the specimens were obtained and whose names will be found prefixed to each description.

FALCO MELANOGENYS, *Gould*. Black-cheeked Falcon.

Gould, Handbk. Bds. Austr., Vol. i., sp. 8, p. 26.

Regarding the additional information on the breeding habits of *Falco melanogenys*, the most courageous of all our Raptorial birds, I am indebted to Dr. L. Holden, of Circular Head, and Mr. E. D. Atkinson, of Table Cape, North-west Tasmania. From the former gentleman's notes kindly sent me I have extracted the following:—

“On the 10th of September, 1887, Mr. E. D. Atkinson, took two fresh eggs of this species on a ledge of cliffs between Sister's Hill and Boat Harbour.” “On the 4th of October, 1888, I found a nesting place of the Black-cheeked Falcon on the cliffs that bound Sister's Beach on the South-east, it was the same place that Mr. Atkinson obtained his nest on the 10th of September, 1887. The eggs were three in number and hard set, but could be blown, and laid on the rock without any nest, the ledge being but some ten or twelve feet from the base of the cliff, and was quite easily reached by a zigzag approach scarcely to be called a climb, the projecting rocks forming an easy stairway.” Dr. Holden visited the same place on the 26th of September, 1889, but there were no eggs. On the 30th of September, 1891, he writes as follows:—“I took a clutch of Falcon's eggs last Saturday, the 26th inst., from the same spot to an inch which I robbed in 1888. It is not bare rock where the eggs were found, there is a covering of grit and detritus. In more frequented spots these birds take care to breed in as inaccessible places as possible, and although in Tasmania the Black-cheeked Falcons are numerous, their eggs are usually unattainable.”

The above set of eggs are typical eggs of this species, they are in form rounded ovals, the isabelline ground colour of which is almost obscured by minute freckles, dots, spots, and irregular shaped blotches of deep reddish-brown; in one instance these markings are evenly dispersed over the surface of the shell, in the others they become confluent, forming a cap on the larger end in one specimen, and on the smaller end in another. Length (A) 2·12 x 1·65 inch; (B) 2·17 x 1·65 inch; (C) 2·18 x 1·67 inch.

This bird usually breeds on the rocky cliffs of the coast in the vicinity of which it is more frequently found, but the late Mr. Kenric Harold Bennett obtained the eggs of this Falcon for several seasons on Mt. Manara, an isolated rocky prominence rising out of a plain in the Western District of New South Wales.

In favourable situations, with the exception of the Northern and North-eastern portions of the Continent, this species is found all over Australia.

STRIX CANDIDA, *Tickell*. Grass Owl.

Gould, Suppl. Bds. Austr., fol. edit., pl. i.

Mr. J. A. Boyd, of the Herbert River, Queensland, has kindly sent the following notes relative to the nidification of this species: "This Owl nests on the ground, choosing a high thick tussock of grass, forming a bower in it, and laying its eggs on the few grass blades that have been trampled down. On the 1st of June, 1884, I found two nests of this bird, each of which contained three young ones and one egg. It is a curious fact that though this bird always lays four eggs, I never found more than three young ones, one egg being always addled. A friend of mine here has also had the same experience. It seems strange that the bird should lay an egg more than she is able to hatch. When first I came here these birds were comparatively common, but latterly have almost disappeared from this immediate neighbourhood, owing I think to the largely increased quantity of cattle running over the plain."

The two eggs referred to by Mr. Boyd are more elongated than is the rule with most Owl's eggs, and may be described as thick ovals in form, white, the shell with the exception of a few calcareous excrescences at the larger end being perfectly smooth and lustreless. Length (A) 1·69 x 1·27 inch; (B) 1·73 x 1·26 inch.

The range of this species extends over India, China, the Phillipine Islands, and the Northern and Eastern portions of Australia.

EDOLISOMA TENUIROSTRE, *Jardine*. Jardine's Campephaga.

Graucalus tenuirostris, Jard., Edinb. Journ. Nat. Sci. iv. p. 211.

Ceblepyris jardinii, Rüppell, Mus. Senckenb. iii. p. 30.

Campephaga jardinii, Gould, Bds. Austr. fol. Vol. ii. pl. 60.

Gould, Handbk. Bds. Austr., Vol. i., sp. 109, p. 200.

*During the latter end of September, 1882, Mr. C. C. L. Talbot observed a pair of these birds building their nest in the angle of a thin forked horizontal branch of an Ironbark (*Eucalyptus* sp.), about forty feet from the ground, on Collaroy Station, Broad Sound, 556 miles N.W. of Brisbane. A week after, seeing the female sitting on the nest for some length of time, he climbed up to it and found it contained a perfectly fresh egg, which he took (not waiting for the full complement, which is probably two), as the tree was a difficult one to climb, at the same time securing the nest. It was a small and shallow structure composed of wiry grasses securely fastened together with cobwebs, and closely resembled the branch on which it was placed. The egg is ovoid in form, of a very pale bluish-grey ground colour, uniformly

* North, Rec. Austr. Mus., Vol. i., No. 8, July, 1891.

spotted and dotted with irregular shaped markings of different shades of umber and slaty-brown, underlying blotches of slaty-grey appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell. Length 1.2 x 0.82 inch. In the colour and disposition of its markings, it resembles some varieties of the eggs of *Sittella chrysoptera*, and in shape and size that of the egg of *Graucalus hyperleucus*, but is entirely free from the asparagus-green ground colour which predominates in the eggs of the latter genus. This is the only occasion I have known of the nest and egg of this species having been taken.

The Northern and Eastern portions of the Australian Continent constitutes the habitat of this species.

CHIBIA BRACTEATA, *Gould*. Spangled Drongo-Shrike.

Gould, Handbk. Bds. Austr., Vol. i., sp. 132, p. 235.

This migratory species is rather freely dispersed over the greater portions of Northern and Eastern Australia, it arrives at Cape York about the middle of April, and the Herbert River in May. Mr. C. C. L. Talbot found it breeding on Collaroy Station, near Broad Sound, Queensland, on the 10th of October, 1882. The nests in every instance were open and slightly cup-shaped structures, composed entirely of long stems of a climbing plant and fibrous roots, and were attached to the fine leafy twigs at the extremities of the branches of a dwarf white gum, at an altitude of twenty feet from the ground. The nests were placed in trees about fifty yards apart, and in the twelve nests examined each of them contained three eggs for a sitting; in some the eggs were perfectly fresh, in others partly incubated, but none were found containing young ones. The eggs are oval in form, somewhat pointed at one end, and are of a very pale purplish-grey ground colour, with numerous scratches and irregular shaped markings of light reddish-purple, scattered over the entire surface of the shell, many of which are nearly obsolete. All the markings have a faded and washed out appearance, and the shell is dull and lustreless. A set measures, length (A) 1.2 x 0.83 inch; (B) 1.18 x 0.83 inch; (C) 1.23 x 0.85 inch.

BATHILDA RUFICAUDA, *Gould*. Red-tailed Finch.

Gould, Handbk. Bds. Austr., Vol. i., sp. 254, p. 412.

This pretty little Finch, although by no means common, has a most extensive range of habitat, being found throughout Northern, North-eastern and North-western Australia, it is also very sparingly dispersed over the Northern and Interior portions of New South Wales, but in the latter districts it is considered a rare species, being very seldom obtained; a small flock was seen near Lithgow in the Blue Mountains last winter, one of which, an

adult male specimen, was procured. This species evinces a preference for the country lying between Normanton on the Gulf of Carpentaria, and Townsville on the North-eastern coast of Queensland, on the grassy plains of which they are occasionally captured and sent to the southern markets. Like all the members of the *Ploceidae* family it constructs a large dome shaped nest of dried grasses, which is usually placed in a low bush or tuft of long grass. The eggs are five in number for a sitting, true ovals in form and pure white; two specimens received from Dr. Henry Sinclair last season measure (A) 0.6 x 0.47 inch; (B) 0.6 x 0.45 inch.

PTILOTIS FRENATA, Ramsay. Bridled Honey-eater.*

Ramsay, *Proc. Zool. Soc.*, 1874, p. 603.

This species, one of the latest additions to the known *Meliphagidae*, is found in the thickly timbered coastal ranges lying between Cairns and Cardwell in North-eastern Queensland. A nest of this bird obtained by Mr. W. S. Day at Cairns on the 28th of November, 1891, and from which the parents were procured, was placed in a mass of creepers growing over a small shrub, at a height of about three feet from the ground; it contained two eggs partially incubated. The nest in question is built of stronger materials than is generally used by members of this genus, and was likewise unattached by the rim; the eggs too are unlike those of typical specimens of the *Ptilotes*, approaching nearer in colour and disposition of their markings those of some members of the *Artamidae*. The nest is cup-shaped, and outwardly composed of long pliant stems of a climbing plant and portions of the soft reddish-brown stems of a small fern; inside it is neatly lined with a white wiry looking vegetable fibre, forming a strong contrast to the reddish-brown hue of the exterior; it measures 4.25 inches in diameter by 2.6 inches in height, internal diameter 2.5 inches x 1.6 inch in height. The eggs are oval in form, tapering gently to the smaller end, and are white with minute dots and rounded markings of purplish-black and purplish-grey, the latter colour appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell, as usual the markings predominate on the thicker end where in places they become confluent and form an irregular zone; with the exception of these zones, the markings on one of the specimens are larger and more sparingly dispersed, in the other they are uniformly distributed over the greater portion of the surface of the shell. Length (A) 0.93 x 0.65 inch; (B) 0.95 x 0.65 inch.

ORTHONYX SPINICAUDUS, Temminck. Spine-tailed Orthonyx.

Gould, *Handbk. Bds. Austr.*, Vol. i., sp. 372, p. 607.

The nest of the Spine-tailed Orthonyx is dome-shaped and large for the size of the bird, and resembles somewhat that of the Lyre-

bird, *M. superba*, but is much smaller and is usually placed between the buttresses of trees, or amongst the thick undergrowth in which this bird loves to dwell. A nest of this species now before me in the Group Collection of the Australian Museum, taken from the scrubs of the Richmond River in June 1890, (together with the parent birds and the eggs,) is domed in form, the base and sides of which are constructed of thick twigs about six inches in length, and the nest proper which has a lateral entrance, entirely of mosses, the whole structure with the exception of the opening being covered and well concealed with dead leaves; it measures exteriorly from back to front of the base fourteen inches and a-half, width nine inches and a-half, height at the centre of the nest, seven inches, from front of the base to entrance of the nest proper, seven inches; the interior of the nest which is rounded in form measures four inches in diameter. The eggs of this species are two in number for a sitting and are pure white and vary from an elongate oval to a compressed ellipse in form, the texture of the shell being fine and slightly glossy. Two sets measure as follows:—Length (A) 1.13 x 0.83 inch; (B) 1.12 x 0.8 inch; (C) 1.12 x 0.87 inch; (D) 1.16 x 0.86 inch.

The coastal scrubs of New South Wales constitutes the principal habitat of this species.

CACOMANTIS INSUPERATUS, Gould. Square-tailed Brush-Cuckoo.
Gould, *Handbk. Bds. Aust.*, Vol. i., sp. 380, p. 619.

Dr. George Hurst of Sydney, has taken at Newington on the Parramatta River, during many years past, eggs of a Cuckoo referable to this species, and which were usually obtained from the nests of *Rhipidura albiscapa*; and I have also seen similar eggs from the collections of Mr. John Waterhouse and Mr. Leslie Oakes taken in the same locality. A few years ago Dr. Hurst found one of the same Cuckoo's eggs at Newington in the nest of *Malurus cyaneus*, and to which he drew attention in the Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, Vol. iii., 2nd Series, p. 421, 1888; attributing it to this species. Early in December 1891, Mr. S. Moore was successful in obtaining from a tree on the banks of the Cook's River a similar Cuckoo's egg from the nest of *Ptilotis chrysops*, and on the 26th of the same month in company with Dr. Hurst, two more Cuckoo's eggs were obtained at Eastwood, both from the nests of *Rhipidura albiscapa*, and which also contained the usual complement of eggs laid by this bird for a sitting. All these Cuckoo's eggs were obtained within a radius of ten miles of Sydney, and it is a matter of regret, that the opportunity was not taken of placing them in nests convenient for observation and hatching the young birds out, as was done by Dr. Ramsay and his brothers at Dobroyde, with the eggs of *C.*

pallidus, *C. flabelliformis*, *L. plagosus*, and *L. basalis*, so as to conclusively determine to which species they belong; but there can be no doubt Dr. Hurst was right in ascribing the eggs obtained by him and his friends to *Cuculus insperatus*, as it is the only other species of Cuckoo found near Sydney, the eggs of which we were until then unacquainted with. The eggs of this Cuckoo are not unlike large specimens of those of *Rhipidura albiscapa*, but the bluish-grey sub-surface markings predominate more than in those of the White-shafted Fantail; they are a thick ovoid in form, of a creamy white ground colour, thickly spotted and blotched with yellowish-brown markings, intermingled with others of a dull bluish-grey, becoming larger on the thicker end of the egg, where they are confluent and form a well defined zone. Length (A) 0.72 x 0.53 inch; (B) 0.7 x 0.58 inch; (C) 0.73 x 0.58 inch; (D) 0.73 x 0.56 inch; (E) 0.7 x 0.53 inch.

With the exception of Northern Australia, this species is very sparingly dispersed over the remainder of the Continent in favourable situations.

CENTROPUS PHASIANUS, *Latham*. Swamp Pheasant.

Gould, Handbk. Bds. Austr., Vol. i., sp. 388, p. 634.

Mr. Charles Barnard, of Coomooboolaroo, Dawson River, Queensland, has kindly sent the following notes:—

"On the 15th of February, 1891, I found a nest and three eggs of *Centropus phasianus*. The nest was built about fifteen inches above the ground in some high broad-bladed grass, the tops of which were drawn down and loosely interwoven into the shape of a ball of about eight inches internal diameter, with a round hole in one side for entrance and another at the opposite side as a means of exit. The bottom of the nest was thickly padded with "Blood-wood*" leaves, which extended through the entrance and on to the bent down grass outside the nest in the shape of a platform. The nest was built against the stem of a small tree, I think for protection, as the grass all round appeared equally suitable for nesting in."

Mr. J. A. Boyd of the Herbert River, Queensland, informs me that a nest of this species was obtained on his plantation on the 16th of December, 1891, containing five eggs, and another on the 30th instant, with five young ones in it. In both instances these nests were constructed in the lower leaves of the Screw Palm, (*Pandanus aquaticus*).

Three of the above set of eggs are rounded in form, white, and nest-stained, the shell having a thin calcareous covering making the surface perfectly smooth, which is dull and lustreless; in some places are scratches which appear to have been done by the parent bird while sitting, revealing the true character of the shell under-

* *Eucalyptus corymbosa*.

neath, they measure as follows :—length (A) 1·53 x 1·23 inch ; (B) 1·39 x 1·17 inch ; (C) 1·48 x 1·2 inch.

Specimens of this bird similar to those of the Eastern coast have been procured by Mr. E. H. Saunders at Roeburne, and the late T. H. Boyer-Bower at Derby in North-western Australia, it is also found at intervals throughout the coastal districts of Northern and Eastern Australia, and although common in the Northern portions of New South Wales, its range does not extend so far south as the southern boundary of the colony.

CALYPTORHYNCHUS FUNEREUS, *Shaw*. Funeral Black Cockatoo.
Gould, Handbk. Bds. Austr., Vol. ii., sp. 401, p. 20.

Unlike most members of the order Psittaci inhabiting Australia which breed at the latter end of Spring and all through the Summer, the genus *Calyptorhynchus* does not commence to breed until late in the Autumn or the beginning of Winter. In the previous Supplement* it will be seen from Mr. E. H. Lane's notes, that during a period of twelve years he had always obtained the eggs of *C. solandri* during the months of March, April, and May, and from the following notes sent at various times by Mr. George Barnard of the Dawson River, Queensland it may be gathered that *C. funereus* is an early Winter breeder.

"On the 2nd of June, 1884, my sons found a nest of *C. funereus* containing two eggs. The nesting place was in the hollow bough of a tall *Eucalyptus*." "June 9th, 1890—Yesterday my sons found a nest of *C. funereus*, unfortunately the eggs were just hatching, one was out, the other egg chipped ; though we knew they bred in June, we did not think they would be so early."

On the 13th June 1891, "my sons found two nests of *C. funereus* and two of *C. solandri*, about ten miles from the homestead. Each nest contained but a single egg, all of which were perfectly fresh, but as the holes in the trees had all been enlarged by chopping and they were so far from home the eggs were taken. All the nests were within a mile of each other and were in the hollow boughs of lofty *Eucalypts*; *C. funereus* was from thirty to forty feet from the ground, and deep down in the hollow trunk of the tree, *C. solandri* were from seventy to ninety feet from the ground, and the eggs could almost be reached from the hole."

"A fortnight after finding the nests of the Black Cockatoos my sons went out again in the hopes that some of the birds would have relaid. Only one nest was found to be occupied, that of *C. funereus*, containing two eggs; which are rounder than those taken previously.

The eggs of *C. funereus* vary somewhat in size and are rounded in form, pure white, except where stained with the decaying wood

* Rec. Austr. Aus., Vol. i., No. 6, March 1891.

on which they were laid, the shell being dull and lustreless, and having minute shallow pittings all over them ; they measure (A) 1.82 x 1.49 inch ; (B) 1.9 x 1.6 inch.

The range of this species extends over Eastern and Southern Australia and Tasmania, although in the latter colony Gould separated the species from *C. funereus*, under the name of *C. xanthonotus*, but the specific characters are not constant, specimens having been received from Tasmania that could not be distinguished from the continental form, and Dr. Ramsay who has examined one of Gould's types, states they are identical.

POLYTELIS ALEXANDRÆ, Gould. The Princess of Wales Parrakeet.

Gould, *Handbk. Bds. Austr.*, Vol. ii., 1865, sp. 407, p. 32.

Much attention has recently been drawn to this the rarest of all the Australian Psittaci. It was first discovered by Mr. F. G. Waterhouse at Howell's Ponds, in Lat. about 17° S. and Long. 133° E. who accompanied Stuart, the well known Central Australian explorer in 1862. Gould described it in the following year in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society, dedicating it to the Princess of Wales, and subsequently figuring it in his Supplement to the Birds of Australia, in 1869.

After a lapse of twenty-eight years since discovering this species, Mr. M. Symonds Clark, of Adelaide, South Australia, brought under the notice of the public, through the columns of the *South Australian Register* of the 28th of August, 1890, the existence of two living specimens of *Polytelis alexandræ*, which had been taken from a nest in the hollow branch of a tree by Mr. T. G. Magarey at "Crown Point," about fifty miles north of "Charlotte Waters," in Lat. 25° 30' and Long. 133°, about six hundred miles south from where the type specimens were obtained. Later on Dr. E. C. Stirling, the Director of the Adelaide Museum, who accompanied the Earl of Kintore, Governor of South Australia, on his trip across the Continent from north to south in 1891, succeeded in obtaining two specimens a few miles north of "Newcastle Waters," and towards the latter end of the same year Mr. A. H. C. Zietz, the Assistant Director of the Adelaide Museum, acquired the eggs of this species, one of which together with a male specimen of *P. alexandræ*, has recently been received by the Trustees of the Australian Museum.

The egg of *P. alexandræ* is an ellipse in form, pure white, the texture of the shell being very fine, and the surface slightly glossy. Length 1.23 inch x 0.94 inch in breadth.

The interior of Northern Central Australia constitutes the habitat of this species.

TURNIX MELANOTUS, *Gould*. Small Black-spotted Turnix.

Gould, Handbk. Bds. Austr., Vol. ii., sp. 481, p. 182.

*Of the three small species of *Turnix* found in Australia, two of them, *T. velox* and *T. pyrrhothorax*, give decided preference to the open grassy plains of the inland districts, while *Turnix melanotus* is essentially an inhabitant of the low marshy ground and damp scrubs contiguous to the eastern coast of Australia. Near Sydney the latter species is not uncommon in the neighbourhood of Randwick, Botany, and La Perouse, localities also frequented by the Least Swamp Quail, *Excalfatoria australis*, and both species, shot at Botany on the same day, have been recently presented to the Museum.

The nidification of *Turnix melanotus*, similar to that of other members of the genus, is a scantily grass-lined hollow in the ground, sheltered by a convenient tuft of grass or low bush. The eggs are four in number for a sitting; specimens obtained on Mr. Boyd's plantation on the Herbert River, Queensland, on the 13th of December, 1890, are oval in form, tapering somewhat sharply to the smaller end, the ground colour is of a greyish-white, and is almost obscured with minute freckles of pale uniber-brown, while sparingly distributed over the surface of the shell are conspicuous spots and blotches of dark slaty-grey, which in some places approach an inky-black hue. Length (A) 0.97 x 0.73 inch, (B) 0.98 x 0.73 inch. These eggs can easily be distinguished from those of *T. velox*, by being much darker and the surface of the shell bright and glossy. During the same month, eggs of *Excalfatoria australis* were procured in the same locality. The latter species, Mr. J. A. Boyd informs me, is very common on the Herbert River.

STERNA MEDIA, *Horsfield*. Crested Tern.

Sterna media, Horsfield, Trans. Linn. Soc., 1820, xiii., p. 198.

Sterna bengalensis, Lesson, Traite d'Orn., p. 621 (1831); Gould,

Handbk. Bds. Austr., Vol. ii., p. 327, sp. 603 (1865).

Thalasseus torresii, Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc., (1842), p. 142; *id.*

Bds. Austr., fol. Vol. vii. pl. 25.

This species of Tern has a most extensive range of habitat. It is found frequenting the Northern and Eastern coast of Africa, the Red Sea, and the southern shores of Asia, the Indo-Malayan and Austro-Malayan Archipelago, and the Northern and Eastern coasts of Australia.

Mr. H. Grensill Barnard, who has lately returned from a collecting tour in the islands contiguous to the coast of North-eastern Queensland, has kindly sent the following interesting

* North, Rec. Austr. Mus., Vol. i., No. 9, October, 1891.

notes respecting the nidification of this Tern, also several of its eggs for description, and a skin of one of the parent birds for identification.

"In conversation with the keeper of a fishing station on a small island, about six miles south of North Barnard Island, I learnt that a species of Tern was breeding in great numbers, on a small sand-bank thirty miles due east of the latter island and close to the Great Barrier Reef. One of the fishing boats coming in on Saturday night, I took my gun and went on board; sail was set soon after, but I did not reach the scene of operations till Monday morning, the 23rd of November, 1891. The bank was a very small one not more than twenty yards across, and about three or four feet above high water in the centre. On approaching it we could see the Terns sitting on the sand in hundreds, also several of a very much larger species of sea-bird*, which I ascertained afterwards on landing were engaged in eating the eggs of the Terns, as I found a great number of the eggs with a large hole pecked in the side. The eggs of the Terns were placed on the bare sand, one to each bird for a sitting, and so close together as only to give the birds room to sit; there could have been no less than five or six hundred eggs on that portion of the bank occupied. Though the birds had been breeding more than a month, there were no young ones, the fishermen informing me that the larger species we saw on the bank devoured the young ones directly they were hatched. I shot two of the parent-birds, and the men collected about two buckets full of eggs to cook."

The eggs are oval in form, some of which are sharply pointed at the smaller end and vary in ground colour from a delicate reddish-white to stone and lustreless white, some specimens are boldly blotched and spotted with penumbral markings of purplish and reddish-brown, and underlying blotches and spots of bluish and pearl-grey appearing as if beneath the surface of the shell; others are uniformly dotted and spotted with smaller markings of the same colours, but in all the specimens now before me the markings on the outer surface of the shell are mostly penumbral. Average specimens measure, length (A) 2.02 x 1.47 inch; (B) 2.1 x 1.4 inch; (C) 2.05 x 1.43 inch; (D) 2.08 x 1.42 inch.

PLOTUS NOVÆ-HOLLANDIÆ, Gould. The New Holland Snake-bird or Darter.

Gould, *Handbk. Bds. Austr.*, Vol. ii., sp. 657, p. 496.

†The Trustees of the Australian Museum have lately received the eggs of *Plotus novæ-hollandiæ*, taken by Mr. J. L. Ayres at

* Probably a Skua.

† North, *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, Vol. i., No. 7, June, 1891.

Lake Buloke, in the Wimmera District of Victoria, on 1st April, 1891. The nest was built at a height of about fifteen feet, on the branch of a Eucalyptus standing in the water, it was outwardly composed of sticks lined inside with twigs, and contained five eggs, one of which was unfortunately broken in descending the tree. The eggs are elongated ovals in form tapering gradually towards the smaller end, where they are somewhat sharply pointed; the shell has a thick, white, calcareous covering, only a few scratches here and there revealing the true colour underneath, which is of a pale blue. Length (A) 2.41 x 1.45 inches; (B) 2.32 x 1.42 inches; (C) 2.34 x 1.45 inch; (D) 2.43 x 1.47 inch. Although very late in the season, Mr. Ayres found another Darter's nest on the same day, containing five newly hatched young ones.

This species is found all over Australia, but is more sparingly distributed in the extreme Southern and Western portions of the Continent.

NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE SANDERLING
(*CALIDRIS ARENARIA*) IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

By Prof. ALFRED NEWTON, M.A., F.R.S.

HAVING lately occasion to investigate the range of the Sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*), I came across a memorandum made in the year 1860 of my having then seen in the Derby Museum at Liverpool, two specimens of the larger race of this species, one in Winter dress and the other in incipient Spring plumage, both being marked as females and as having been obtained at Sandy Cove in New South Wales, 20th April, 1844, by the late John Macgillivray. As this wandering species does not seem to have been hitherto recorded from Australia, this fact may be of some interest to the Ornithologists of that country. I may add that I find little verification of Temminck's assertion in 1840 (*Man. d'Ornithologie* iv. p. 349) often repeated in one form or another that the Sanderling occurs in the Sunda Islands and New Guinea; or even, as by a recent writer who states in general terms, that it is a winter visitor to the islands of the Malay Archipelago (*"Geographical Distribution of the Charadriidæ &c."* p. 432). Java seems to be the only one of these islands in which its presence has been determined, and though it was included with a mark of doubt in the lists of the Birds of Borneo by Prof. W. Blasius (1882) and Dr. Vorderman (1886) respectively, it has been omitted, and apparently with reason from that of Mr. Everitt (1889). It is well known to pass along the whole of the West Coast of America, and it has been obtained in the Galapagos and the Sandwich Islands, but I know of no instance of its having been observed in any polynesian group or within the tropics to the eastward of Java.

Magdalene College, Cambridge, 25th March, 1892.